

SECRET

UNIC

March 12, 1952

Dear []

I am enclosing three copies of an article which appeared in the Swedish edition of RESTITUTION, No. 8, February 17, 1951. This gives a pretty good picture of the line Mr. Bruno Kalnins has taken in the past and continues to take against our and the Voice of America's collaborators. It also indicates the attitude of the editor of RESTITUTION to some extent, an attitude which appears to be the prevalent one in the Baltic emigration.

As you know, Kalnins represents an extremist group of small size but rather vocal. His manner with members of the Committee and the Latvian Consultative Panel at the London Conference of the Central and Eastern European Commission of the European Movement was very conciliatory and reasonable. It must, however, be remembered that he has been described as a charming and plausible person. In view of this we are taking an extremely cautious attitude about his new approach.

The present aim of Mr. Kalnins is to get Mr. Voldemars Eastjanis on the Latvian Consultative Panel.

Sincerely, []

SECRET

MAR 14 1952

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCES/METHODS/EXEMPTION 3B2
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2007

31 MAR	
100	134 613
12 Mar 52	

CCFY

The Latvian Council
members in Stockholm are denouncing their diplomatic
representative to the National Committee for a Free Europe

Secret denunciations, deprecations of their political
opponents, striving to get the influential posts at any cost,
all of these qualities reveal the characteristics of the fight
of small refugee groups abroad against each other. Russian
refugees, for instance, are still ailing because of those ills.
They have become contagious to the refugees of the second
World War as well. Alas, we ourselves and our neighbors belong
to them too. It is characteristic, too, that this kind of fight
is especially favored by the radical refugee circles and by
the circles tinted with pink.

The flames of the fight are especially high around the
appointment to the Consultative Panels in the refugee circles
of our southern neighbors. The editorial office has in its
possession a memorandum-denunciation, purporting to describe
this fight, and it is signed by the Committee of the Latvian
Social Democrats abroad and the representative of the Latvian
Free Trade Union. It is said in this complaint, among other
things:

Mr. I. Feldmanis a partisan of dictatorship?

The membership of the Latvian Consultative Panel with the
Committee of Free Europe was composed according to the suggestion
of the Latvian diplomatic representative in the U.S.A., Mr.
Feldmanis. Mr. Feldmanis is the keenest adherent of the national
dictatorship of Ulmanis. Further it has been observed that all
of that perpetrated during that dictatorship of Ulmanis.

Parliament and the parties were dissolved. All democratic
freedoms were removed and a concentration camp was established
in Libau, Latvia. The members of Free Europe are requested to
get acquainted with the books mentioned in complaints which
were popular in former times. The worst of it is that Mr. Feldmanis
is still asserting that he is the representative of the Ulmanis
government and does not want to have anything to do with the
parties of refugees abroad. Also it is mentioned he does not
recognize the Latvian constitution of 1922 and adheres strictly
to the constitution effective now. (It is a characteristic also
of our so-called democratic circles who maintain unanimously
that our political life came to an end in 1933 and they recognize
only the constitution effective before that time. — Editor)

Considering all of this, it is no wonder that the Latvian
Consultative Panel is composed of men who represent the right
wing parties with which the authors of this complaint are not
satisfied. Mr. Feldmanis is said to have left out of the staff
of the Consultative Panel the representative of the Latvian
socialists and liberals. Mr. Feldmanis has put to represent the
Latvian working people a Mr. Abneris, who is not recognized
by the leader of the leftists abroad, chief politruk (political
instructor) Bruno Kalninsh, with his adherents. Because of this
as the memorandum clarifies, all the Latvian leftist refugees'
literature is in flames.

Extremists in Latvian Consultative Panel

After having so uncovered the "transgressions" of Mr. Feldmanis, the official representative of their state, the memorandum begins to air the staff of the Consultative Panel. Mr. Barzins was the scapegoat who was given first place, who allegedly had been one of the leaders of the Fascist state coup on May 15, 1934, and who functioned as a propaganda minister of the Ulmanis dictatorship. That lasted, of course, until the friends of the complainers came from the east and appointed Bruno Kalnins himself as a chief politruk, to make Democratic propaganda in the Latvian army. The second extremist in the Latvian Consultative Panel is said to be Mr. S. Freivalds, who was also an official of Radio-Riga during the ill-fated Ulmanis dictatorship and has there developed anti-democratic propaganda. In the Latvian Voice of America under the influence of the Latvian Consultative Panel, Mr. H. Lielnovs is said to be an active person who is a rightist too. His collaborator is said to be "Nazi-collaborator" and Gestapo spokesman O. Berling, who made Nazi propaganda in Riga and Berlin during the war." And again in the Voice of America there is not one person who has come from the democratic and labor movement. A Social Democrat, Mr. Kraulitis, who has offered his services to the Voice of America, is said to have been refused as well. Even the letter of the National Council from Stockholm has not been answered.

The Laurels of Mr. Bruno Kalnins

After having aired all the rightist persons in the Free Europe and the Voice of America, the memorandum begins to build up Mr. Kalnins, the chief politruk of the Latvian army, and tells how he was hit by the misfortune of suffering under the Ulmanis government. He was alleged to be an acting member of the Latvian armed workers home guard and was therefore placed under the Ulmanis court. He was imprisoned for three years, which was spoken of everywhere as "the murder of justice." When the Communists of Moscow marched into the Baltic countries and took over the power according to their plan, B. Kalnins also became by accident an army chief politruk and successfully carried out elections in the Latvian army, of which the text under the above picture speaks. In this part of the memorandum mentioned above, the activities of Mr. Kalnins are depicted as those of a great Latvian nationalist and patriot. While the first part of the memorandum consisted of three typewritten pages, the part of the memorandum which was used for praising Mr. Kalnins and for cleaning up his reputation took all of five pages.

It would be a wrong against the reader to bring all that praise while the activities of Mr. B. Kalnins are best characterized, the writer of these lines thinks, by the photo from 1940 mentioned above and the text under it published by the Jaunakas Zinas (the most widely read Latvian newspaper -- Translator).

It is said in the memorandum regarding the present activities of Mr. B. Kalninsk in Sweden that he is a leader of the foreign committee of the Latvian Socialist worker party and leads at the same time the Latvian National Council, which embraces the Latvian resistant and refugee party circles. Also Mr. Kalninsk is alleged to be a contributor to several Socialist newspapers in Europe. In Sweden he is writing for the "Eugens Myheter":

In the conclusion of the memorandum a short summary of the story is given and the candidates of the socialists and liberals are presented to Free Europe. They are Mr. V. Eastjanis, former minister of economy, Mr. V. Kraulitis, the representative of the Latvian socialists in the U.S.A. since 1947, and Mr. Zarins, a former diplomat from the liberals.

The memorandum was written in Stockholm on August 25, 1951.

Photo (Six politruks are shown sitting around a table -- Translator.)

The Meeting of Latvian Politruks

The photo shown above is taken from the well-known Latvian newspaper, Jaunskats Zinas, July 17, 1940. The caption under the photo is: The meeting of army politruks. In the photo are, 1st row: The politruk of the Livland army division T. Leijnsh, the political leader of the army Bruno Kalninsk, the politruk of Latgallian army division K. Kurmis, the politruk of the technical department P. Grigans and the politruk of the artillery department A. Staksons. 2nd row: The politruk of Semgallian division I. Vecvagsis and the deputy of the political leader of the army A. Zirnitis. Further it is pointed out: Army political leader Bruno Kalninsk was meeting with the politruks of the army divisions because of elections. Up to now the army was wholly separated from politics. The soldiers were forbidden to express their political views. Now every soldier can give himself to politics and be a member of the Communist party. The soldiers are very pleased and enthusiastic over the possibilities of making their own destiny. The best proof of this is the fact that 95-100 per cent took part in the election of the parliament and gave their voice to the worker's block.

Of the persons shown in the picture the politruk K. Kurmis was also in Sweden in 1934 and was imprisoned for three months for his Communist activities and was sent back to Latvia after the Communists came into power. The army chief political leader or politruk is still here and is acting as a leader in the Latvian National Council, trying to influence with his complaints and libels the matters of the Latvian refugees, as shown in the article herewith. Also the hearty relations of Mr. Bruno Kalninsk with the leaders of the Estonian National Council, such as Mr. August Rei and Johannes Mihkelson, are well known.

(from EESTI POST, Swedish Edition, February 17, 1951, No. 9)